



7 June 2018 Minutes

Government Office Building, 6751 Gateway Drive, Columbia, Maryland

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Terry, Chris Williams, Janet Agazio, Bob Lowell, Jonathan K. Branch, Wanda Riddle, Craig Porterfield, Howard T. Mooney, Michael Blum, Alison Buckley, Robert Gillette, J. Gregory Jolissaint GUESTS: Bob Pelletier, Yale Stenzler, Bob Berlett (Legion 300), Bob Chew, Ronna Chew, Lou Schott, and Ed Hall (Post 156- American Legion).

- Meeting called to order at 1900. Kelly Kessler was introduced and made a presentation regarding Howard County Health Department and access to care coalition. She emphasized mental health and behavioral health.
- Bob Gillette introduced Kiah who talked about the Columbia Golf Club fundraiser. He talked about "Salute to Duty" and about the cocktail reception each first Friday at the Waverly Woods Golf Club. He displayed a lapel pin which will be adopted as the official pin of the Howard County Veterans Foundation.
- The minutes for the May 2018 were approved with corrections. It was noted that Bob Lowell was accidentally left off the attendance. Howard noted that the next meeting of the commission would be held on Thursday, 6 September 2018, after our July and August break. Howard emphasized that during the break, the commission would still be involved with activities, such as the Howard County Fair.
- Howard made a motion to approve the final draft of the commission recognition program. Bob Gillette added that the final approval would be pending a legal review. The motion was adopted.
- It was noted that a Veterans Affairs Governor's citation was awarded to Lisa Terry, Congratulations Lisa.
- Alison talked about the dates and location of the next Howard County Resource Fair. Ed also discussed his critique of the last resource fair and apologized for recommending the last speaker. Lisa stated that you should not base the success of an event based on the attendance. Sometimes the people who need the most help do not attend the event. Mike discussed the fact that a survey of the attendees is not done. Lisa said that surveys are sent after the event, but the response rate is low. Ed Hall talked about an action item regarding veterans' organizations acting as a liaison at the college.
- Howard talked about having commission members at the Howard County Fair on August 4th. It was agreed that the commission would participate in the Howard County Fair Parade.
- The flag raising ceremony at the Harriett Tubman School on May 28 was discussed.

- Bob Lowell updated the commission regarding the veteran treatment courts. He spoke of federal legislation that was filed.
- Ed gave an update regarding the Veterans Parking Initiative.
- Bob Gillette gave an update of the monument progress.
- Ed stated that we should be prepared to have the Veteran's Day Parade. Wanda stated that the ECP (Ellicott City Partnership) has cancelled everything for now due to the recent flood. The possibility of moving the parade to downtown Columbia was discussed.
- Lisa discussed how we would spend the remainder of the commission's allotted money for the year. Lisa discussed the funding for Fort Meade's new education center.
- Wanda, Ed and Col Schott attended the funeral of Sgt. Eddison "Eddie" A. Hermond who was killed during the Ellicott City flood.
- Wanda also thanked Jonathan for taking the minutes this year, and Jonathan agreed to stay on the commission.
- Bob Gillette also discussed the upcoming "Party in the Pit" at Merriweather Post Pavilion to raise money for flood victims and Eddison Hermond scholarship.
- Ed also discussed participation in the 4th of July Parade and greeting of the Honor Flights.
- Meeting was adjourned at 2030

Submitted by Jonathan K. Branch